

## Quotation Marks and Paragraph Breaks

- 15j.** When you write dialogue (a conversation), begin a new paragraph every time the speaker changes.

**EXAMPLES** “After lunch,” said Mrs. Ochoa, “we will read the end of the story.” The tale, growing more mysterious every day, had captivated the class.

“Will it have a happy ending?” asked Grace. The room was silent, and all eyes gazed intently at the teacher. No one moved, but somebody’s pencil rolled onto the floor.

“You will have to wait to find out,” Mrs. Ochoa replied.

**EXERCISE** In the following dialogue, insert paragraph symbols (§) wherever a new paragraph should begin.

**Example** Stanislav exclaimed, “I’ll take Swiss cheese anytime.” § “Is that your favorite cheese?” asked Jeanne.

As he wrote on the chalkboard, Mr. Kaplan asked, “Does anyone know what causes the holes in Swiss cheese?” “I know the answer!” exclaimed Stanislav. “It’s the gas bubbles.” “How did you know that?” asked Mr. Kaplan. “My grandfather makes cheese,” answered Stanislav. “I’ve watched him many times. He adds bacteria for flavor, and adding bacteria makes gas bubbles.” “What happens next?” Alicia wanted to know. “When the cheese gets hard, the bubbles remain as the holes we see in Swiss cheese,” added Stanislav. “I never knew that,” said Jeanne. “I wish I hadn’t learned it,” whispered Alicia, “because that process doesn’t sound very appetizing to me.” “What do you mean? I think it’s interesting,” Jeanne told her, “and it doesn’t change the fact that Swiss cheese tastes good.” “I agree,” Stanislav said. Nodding his head, Mr. Kaplan looked at Stanislav and told him, “Thanks for sharing your story with the class.”